USAID, The CIA, & Covid-19

The internet is breaking over the rumors that USAID was disbanded over the weekend. As a researcher who has spent hundreds of hours researching, I can attest that USAID has been a constant figure appearing in virtually every story I encountered. For context the USAID was started under President John F. Kennedy back in 1961 by executive order.

"USAID became the first U.S. foreign assistance organization whose primary focus was long-term socioeconomic development." [Wikipedia USAID]

What began as an endeavor in humanitarian foreign assistance sadly became an intelligence driven soft coup. The Intelligence Senate Hearings of the 1970s for the first and last time, the leaders of our nation's intelligence community were called before Congress. The hearings were so earth shattering to congress and the country as a whole. Who wouldn't be upon finding out that tax-payer dollars were being spent on things like; MK ULTRA, the Human Ecology Foundation and even, the creation of a heart attack gun that could induce a heart attack in someone without leaving a trace.

Needless to say, the CIA was under intense scrutiny and rightfully so, but by then the CIA had grown used to wasting billions of dollars doing virtually whatever they wanted & regardless of if anyone wanted them to stop their controversial operations one thing is certain-the CIA had no intention of discarding their status quo. It's a common belief that this was the beginning of the end of not the CIA, but of USAID.

Fleeing scrutiny, some of the CIA operations were dispersed into other agencies, HHS, FBI, National Endowment for Democracy, and USAID. Over the years as USAID grew so did the symptoms of an agency being co-opted by the intelligence community. This came to my surprise since I had believed like most American's had that USAID was a beneficial & humanitarian hand of the US but turns out this is only a belief held by the citizens of the US. Other countries have known for decades that USAID was essentially US*CIA*. Great examples of CIA influence withing or under the guise of USAID are Guatemala, China, Haiti, and Ukraine among many others.

Let's look at USAID in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the broader context of international disease surveillance:

1. USAID had funded the Prevent & Predict programs, both programs aimed to improve global understanding of zoonotic disease risks and increase capacity in developing countries for effective response and containment of emerging infectious diseases.
   1a. University of California, Davis (UC Davis) Led the PREDICT consortium through its One Health Institute.

1b. The main companies and institutions that received funding through PREDICT were:

1. University of California, Davis (UC Davis) - Led the PREDICT consortium through its One Health Institute [128]
2. EcoHealth Alliance [EHA] [258]
3. Metabiota [28]
4. Wildlife Conservation Society [28]
5. Smithsonian Institution [28]

1c. USAID was funding EHA who their top collaborators are the other PREDICT awardees, and vice versa.

2. William Karesh served as the Executive Vice President for Health and Policy at **EcoHealth Alliance** since August 2010. Prior to that William [Billy] Karesh worked at **USAID**.

   2a. **EcoHealth Alliance [EHA]** includes: Peter Daszak, Jonna Mazet, William Karesh.

   2b. Peter Daszak is listed as a co-launcher of the **Global Virome Project** alongside Nathan Wolfe, Edward Rubin, and George F. Gao [est. 08/2016].

   2c. Jonna Mazet is a member and Implementation Director of the **Global Virome Project** Leadership Board. Jonna is a Professor of Epidemiology and Disease Ecology at the **UC Davis** School of Veterinary Medicine and Executive Director of the **UC Davis One Health Institute.** Jonna is the Co-Director of the US Agency for International Development's [**USAID**] One Health Workforce – Next Generation. She is the Principal Investigator of and served as the Global Director of PREDICT Project for 10 years, a greater than $200 million viral emergence early warning project under USAID's PREDICT early warning system since 2009. In 2013 she was inducted into the US national academies of medicine and she was appointed to the National Academies Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats, which was created to assist the federal government with critical science and policy issues related to the COVID-19 crisis and other emerging health threats.

3. November 09, 2015 Nature Medicine Journal publishes article titled "A SARS-like cluster of circulating back coronaviruses shows potential for human emergence." Authored by Ralph Baric of UNC Chapel Hill, Zheng-Li Shi and others. The study and paper was funded by USAID through the PREDICT program through EHA.

3a. That paper discusses The key findings of this research include:

1. The researchers created a chimeric virus by combining the spike protein of a bat coronavirus (SHC014-CoV) with a SARS-CoV backbone14.
2. This chimeric virus was able to infect human airway cells efficiently and replicate in mice, demonstrating its potential to cause disease in mammals without requiring mutations in its receptor-binding domain14.

3. The study found that existing SARS-based treatments, including monoclonal antibodies and vaccines, were ineffective against this new virus[4].
4. The researchers also synthesized a full-length SHC014-CoV and demonstrated its ability to replicate both in vitro and in vivo[4].

3b. The paper clearly states that the work done was Gain of Function and was funded by USAID through EHA. There was also funding from NIH/NIAID.

3c. Three days after that paper was published in Nature, the journal publishes an article by Declan Butler [11/12/2015] titled "Engineered bat virus stirs debate over risky research" which expressed the concerns over the safety of the GOF research that was being done in the Nov 9th Research article by Baric & Shi.

4c. The chimeric virus created by that USAID through EHA funded GOF work being done by Shi at WIV and Baric at UNC was not submitted into public or government accessible databanks until May 22, 2020. Six months after the emergence of C19.

5. On May 11, 2017 at 4:48pm, Eddy Rubin wrote to Jonna Mazet stating some changes being done: Metabiota was to continue to manage predict information management [EIDITH] activities, as well as activities in; Cameroon DRC Laos Sierra Leone, Indonesia, & China. For Indonesia & China Rubin says*, "We will work with ecohealth alliance to transfer our human activities once Davis gives us the word in China we will work to finish lab analysis but all human syndromic surveillance has been stopped."* The email is signed off *"Eddy & Karen"*

6. On May 11th 2017 at 9:14pm, Jonna Mazet emailed a message to Eddy Rubin of Metabiota and Karen Saylors Metabiota where she wrote, *"Thanks very much Eddy, This summary aligns perfectly with our discussion and reflects the current plan. Conferring with our team, USAID and EHA (next week) to help us with the remaining planning pieces and smooth transitions. I received word from Andrew and USAID contracts that we can assume Metabiota subawards without restarting the DC review process, so that will be useful. More soon, Jonna."*

7. On June 5th at 1:48pm program manager for PREDICT at the USAID, Andrew Clements emails two other USAID officers under the subject titled: PREDICT management changes in China. In the email, Clements says *"I'm writing to let you know that predict is undergoing some internal management changes in a few countries including China as a result the role of Metabiota will be decreased and the role of Ecohealth alliance will increase we hope the*

impact will be minor and expect that any changes will not greatly alter predicts interactions with the GOP RC local partners local predict staff and the mission while changes in the middle of the project are not ideal predict felt that this change was necessary to make sure it could deliver the expected results."

8.The venture capital arm of the CIA, In-q-tel [IQT] had been a primary investor in Metabiota which was also funded through USAID and worked in collaboration with EHA within the PREDICT program.

8a. Metabiota was founded by Eddy Rubin and Nathan Wolfe, and one of the owners was Hunter Biden.

8b. On October 13, 2014, Burisma Holdings got into a State Department Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] w/ the Municipal Energy Reform Project in Ukraine [MERP] which this cooperative agreement was funded by USAID.

8c. Hunter Biden was on the Board for Burisma Holdings at the time with his employment spanning from May of 2014 to April 2019. His appointment to Burisma's board [May 12, 2014] came shortly after his dad, then-VP of the US, Joe Biden had made his 1st official trip to Ukraine [April 21, 2014]. Hunter resigned in April of 2019 when his father was running for POTUS. He was compensated nearly 1million dollars /yr for his position on the board of Burisma.

8d. In-Q-Tel signed a strategic agreement with Metabiota on August 22, 2017

8e. Hunter Biden's involvement with Metabiota was through Rosemont Seneca Technology Partners (RSTP), an investment firm he co-founded in 2009. A 2014 memo detailed proposed investments that would bring RSTP's ownership of Metabiota to 13.4%

8f. Metabiota's work with Ukrainian biolabs was financed by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) which the collaboration began in 2013, and Metabiota continued its work in Ukraine until 2020. Metabiota received 18.4 million dollars from the Pentagon between 2014-2017, including a 307k dollar program titled, "Ukraine Research Projects"

8g. In February of 2017, just weeks before USAID was shuffling around Metabiota and EHA in China, Kevin Olival of EHA was working on a "not-for-attribution-basis" for In-Q-Tel as part of a infectious disease roundtable exercise white paper titled "round table discussion on portable sequencing for infectious disease detection diagnosis discrimination and discovery"

9. Andrew Weber, a Biological Weapons Expert and member of the Biden Center at U Penn spoke in defense of Hunter Biden's relationship to Ukrainian Biolabs that were funded by the Pentagon and that the programs were akin to a biological weapons program in a Politifact article dated April 1, 2022.

“Weber cautioned against claims pushed by Russia — especially from officials like Kirillov, whose agency maintains what the U.S. has assessed to be an "offensive" biological weapons program.

"This is what KGB-style disinformation purveyors do," Weber said. "It's like saying Hunter Biden is responsible for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It's equally ridiculous, but there's just enough little, tiny, true facts that they can then create this false story on top of it." -[Politifact]”

9a. Andrew Weber worked for the DTRA the same agency that was the funding source of the Ukrainian Biolab collab with the Pentagon that was hosting Metabiota’s work and Weber had travelled with Obama to Ukraine when Biden was VP to examine the Biological Warfare status of Ukraine and went on to work with the Penn Biden Center.

9b. Andrew Weber served as the Head of Global Partnerships at Metabiota in 2016. This position was held after his time as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs from 2009 to 2014.

10. USAID provided funding to projects and organizations that collaborated with or involved the Wuhan Institute of Virology:

1. USAID awarded $1.1 million in funding to the EcoHealth Alliance, which was then used for research involving the WIV25.
2. The PREDICT project, funded by USAID with at least $210 million, included collaboration with the WIV5.
3. USAID provided funding for equipment at the Wuhan lab through the PREDICT program7.
4. The Global Virome Project (GVP), which involved collaboration with the WIV, received $1.3 million from USAID as it was getting started5.

    10a. Since 2017 the directors for USAID are as follows:

    1. Mark Green (August 7, 2017 - April 10, 2020)
    2. John Barsa (Acting, April 13, 2020 - November 6, 2020)
    3. Gloria Steele (Acting, January 20, 2021 - May 2, 2021)
    4. Samantha Power (May 3, 2021 - January 20, 2025)
    5. Jason Gray (Acting, January 20, 2025 - February 3, 2025)
    6. Marco Rubio (Acting, February 3, 2025 - present)

Marco Rubio, the current Secretary of State, was appointed as acting administrator of USAID on February 3, 2025.

10b. Victoria Nuland spoke before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on March 8, 2022, when she was asked about biolabs in Ukraine by Senator Marco Rubio35. During this hearing, Nuland confirmed that Ukraine had "biological research facilities" and expressed concern about Russian forces potentially gaining control of these facilities35